

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. Cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of issuing electronic coupons comprising:

- making a master coupon available at an accessible electronic site;
- accessing said master coupon;
- ~~for copying a customer coupon into a reserved site for a customer;~~
- establishing a benefit associated with said customer coupon wherein the benefit is based on properties defined by said master coupon;
- sharing the benefit of said customer coupon with another customer by copying said customer coupon as a child coupon ~~to a reserved site for said another customer, where~~in with said child coupon ~~inherits~~inheriting the benefit associated with said customer coupon; and
- modifying the benefit of said customer coupon in response to the sharing of the benefit of the customer coupon with the child coupon.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said master coupon includes rules for modifying the benefit of said customer coupon in response for said benefit sharing.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the rules for modifying the benefit of said customer coupon include increasing the benefit of said shared customer coupon in response to said benefit sharing.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the rules for modifying the benefit of said customer coupon include providing an additional benefit to said shared customer coupon in response for said benefit sharing.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said sharing the benefit of said customer having the customer coupon with said another customer ~~holding the child coupon~~ includes:

making a sharing request including at least identification information of said another customer to whom the benefit of said customer coupon is to be shared with;

determining whether said another customer is eligible for receiving the benefit of said customer coupon based on the identification information; and

generating the child coupon if said another customer is eligible for the benefit of said customer coupon.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the benefit is ~~variable in terms of a time period during which the benefit is shared for a~~ time period.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the benefit is variable according to occurrences beyond control of the customer holding the customer coupon.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the benefit is variable according to specific acts of the customer holding the customer coupon.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said acts include the location of the customer holding the customer coupon.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said acts include purchase of a specific item.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the customer coupon can be copied as the child coupon into another customer site electronically while retaining the original customer coupon.

32. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for issuing coupons, comprising:

a server for generating master coupons at locations attributable to different merchants and for establishing locations attributable to customers for receiving coupons;

a network connection allowing customers to access master coupons at said merchant locations and for the copying master coupons at locations as customer coupons;

said customer coupons having a benefit which varies in accordance with properties defined by the master coupon;

a server for copying the customer coupon as a child coupon to a received site for another customer to provide a shared benefit of the customer coupon to the another customer with the child coupon; and

modifying the benefit of the customer coupon in response to sharing a benefit of the copied customer coupon with the child coupon.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the network connection is an internet connection.

34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the network connection is a wireless network connection.

35. (Currently Amended) A coupon system comprising:
a data processing system which issues a master coupon, a customer coupon
and a child coupon, and wherein:

the master coupon comprises a first indicator describing at least one business at which the master coupon can be redeemed, a second indicator describing a time period during which the master coupon is valid, a third indicator describing at least one additional parameter which effects validity of the master

coupon, and a fourth indicator describing a benefit of the master coupon to a redeemer, with the benefit being variable and depending on at least one event occurring after issuance of the master coupon;

the customer coupon comprises a copy of the master coupon reserved for another customer at a reserved site; and

~~a the child coupon which is copied from the customer coupon to provide a shared and shares a benefit between the customer coupon and the child coupon; and~~

~~the customer coupon, in response to sharing of the benefit of the customer coupon with a child coupon, receives a modified has a benefit which is modified by sharing the benefit with the child coupon; and~~

~~the child coupon shares a benefit with the customer coupon.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~coupons system~~ according to claim 35, wherein the sharing of the benefit is variable according to occurrences beyond control of the customer holding the customer coupon.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ according to claim 35, wherein the benefit is variable according to acts of the customer holding the customer coupon.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of issuing and redeeming coupons, comprising the steps of:

- making a master coupon available at an accessible electronic site;
- copying said master coupon ~~into a site for a customer as a customer coupon~~ in a wireless terminal;
- ~~presenting said wireless terminal at a business for redeeming said customer coupon;~~
- ~~connecting said wireless terminal with a point of sale device at said business for redeeming said coupon;~~
- ~~accessing said master coupon for copying a customer coupon into a reserved site for a customer;~~
- establishing a benefit associated with said customer coupon wherein the benefit is based on properties defined by said master coupon;
- sharing the benefit of said customer coupon with another customer by copying said customer coupon as a child coupon ~~to a reserved site for said another customer with the child coupon inheriting the benefit associated with the customer coupon;~~ and
- modifying the benefit of the customer coupon in response for the benefit sharing with the child coupon;
- presenting said wireless terminal at a business for redeeming said customer coupon with the modified benefit; and
- connecting said wireless terminal with a point of sale device at said business to redeem said coupon with the modified benefit.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the wireless terminal and point of sale device are connected by a short range radio link.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the wireless terminal and point of sale device are connected by an infrared link.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein the wireless terminal has a bar code reader and the point of sale device has a scanner and the wireless terminal is connected to the point of sale device by displaying bar codes on said wireless device and scanning the displayed bar codes by said scanner of the point of sale device.

42. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the modified benefit provides a benefit which is additional to the benefit defined by said master coupon to credit said customer for the benefit sharing.